



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY  
UNITED STATES NAVAL ACADEMY  
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1531  
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9 Jul 21

MEMORANDUM

From: Superintendent, U.S. Naval Academy  
To: Dean of Admissions, U.S. Naval Academy

Subj: ADMISSIONS GUIDANCE FOR THE CLASS OF 2026

Ref: (a) SECNAVINST 1531.2D

Encl: (1) Admissions Guidance for the Class of 2026

1. Per reference (a), enclosure (1) states the objectives, criteria, and procedures to be used by the Admissions Board when considering candidates for admission to the U.S. Naval Class of 2026.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "S. S. Buck", is positioned above the printed name.

S. S. BUCK

### Admissions Guidance for the Class of 2026

1. The United States Naval Academy is a national institution that is reflective of the Nation it serves and the Naval Service of which it is a part. The young men and women who are admitted will be challenged to meet high moral, mental, and physical standards throughout their Academy experience. They must possess the potential to develop great character, competence, vision and drive for the privilege, upon graduation, of serving as leaders of Sailors and Marines who have volunteered to serve the nation in times of war and peace. Therefore, the Naval Academy admissions objectives for the Class of 2026 are outlined below:

2. Within the limits established by law, Navy Department directives, guidance from the Secretary of the Navy, and the procedures authorized below; identify, recruit, and admit approximately 1,180 U. S. candidates who meet the requirements outlined in SECNAVINST 1531.2D and OPNAVINST 5450.330B.

3. While ultimate responsibility rests with the Superintendent, the Dean of Admissions is accountable to me for ensuring the integrity of the Naval Academy's admissions policies and process. The Dean of Admissions will ensure that the Admissions Board is convened to consider and evaluate the admission records of candidates. The Naval Academy Admissions Board will be composed of representatives of the staff and faculty and will be chaired by a Board member not assigned to the Office of Admissions. The Board will recommend candidates to the Dean of Admissions who possess the attributes necessary to successfully graduate from the Naval Academy and earn a commission in the Naval Service. The Dean of Admissions has delegated authority to make admissions decisions including offers of appointment, and approve/disapprove medical waivers except those which counter recommendations from the medical authority. The latter waivers require my approval.

4. The Admissions Board will normally meet once each week during the academic year and at other times as required by the Dean of Admissions. The records of all candidates who have submitted actionable applications will be reviewed, with the exception of candidates whose records indicate they are sufficiently below the range of qualification to not warrant further consideration as discussed below.

5. It is important that the Admissions Board strongly consider candidates who will ensure that the Brigade of Midshipmen, and ultimately our graduates meet the needs of the Naval Service by producing well-rounded leaders of Sailors and Marines. To cultivate a set of officers with legitimacy in the eyes of the nation, it is necessary that the path to leadership in the Navy be visibly open to talented and qualified individuals of diverse backgrounds. The composition of the Class of 2026 should be a diverse cross section of America with the greatest possible variety of backgrounds to create an educational experience enhanced by interaction amongst students with different perspectives and life experiences, raising the level of academic and social discourse, sharpening critical thinking and analytical skills, and preparing students to lead in diverse educational environments. The Board shall, therefore, consider acceptance of candidates from across the nation who bring diverse experiences such as (b) (5), (b) (2)

(b) (5), (b) (2)



(b) (5), (b) (2)

Diverse experiences may include, but are not limited to the following:

(b) (5), (b) (2)

The above is not an exhaustive list and Admissions Board members are encouraged to draw from their experiences to ensure that candidates are identified who can excel in the classroom, on the athletic field, within the Brigade, and ultimately as leaders in the Fleet. However, at no point during this process should race, ethnicity, or gender be the basis for "points" in favor of an applicant, but should only be considered as one of many non-determinative factors in the applicant's file.

6. Candidates should normally rank in the (b) (5), (b) (2) percent of their secondary school classes. The Admissions Board may give special consideration to candidates who do not rank in the (b) (5), (b) (2) percent, but offer unusually strong qualifications and are applying from schools which have a high percentage of graduates admitted to four-year colleges, or who possess unusual/exceptional experiences or accomplishments as outlined in paragraph 5 indicative of a desire to excel and that are associated with success in the Academy environment.

7. The Dean of Admissions should identify candidates who are not competitive and who do not appear likely to compete successfully for an appointment to the Academy or any of the Naval Academy preparatory programs, and notify them early in the admissions cycle so they can seek alternative plans to achieve an undergraduate education and/or a commission. The Dean of Admissions will also identify records of candidates who possess unique experiences or accomplishments outlined in paragraph 5 to warrant a detailed evaluation by the Board.

8. The Admissions Board is authorized to adjust a candidate's computed whole person multiple when the record presents information which, in the Board's judgment, warrants a departure from

the computed multiple. When considering the subtler aspects of a candidate's record, the Board is directed to strongly consider the candidate's demonstrated interest (b) (5), (b) (2)

(b) (5), (b) (2)

(b) (5), (b) (2)

These records will be

presented to me for my approval with a justification as to why they possess exceptional characteristics that will allow them to succeed at the Naval Academy.

9. Naval Academy graduates must be unquestioned in moral character, personal conduct and integrity. As such, the Admissions Board is specifically charged with determining the overall moral qualification of each candidate, paying particular attention to issues related to human dignity and worth. Where there is a question, the Character Review Committee shall conduct a thorough review of the issues raised and provide a recommendation to the Admissions Board for a final determination of the moral qualifications of each candidate. Substantiated incidents of sexual harassment, sexual assault, participation in extremist groups or organizations, or inappropriate online conduct shall be considered as grounds for disqualification.

10. The Dean of Admissions may make offers of appointment only to candidates whose medical examination results are consistent with the expectation that the candidate will remain eligible for a commission after graduation in the Unrestricted Line of the Navy or the Marine Corps. Candidates with extraordinarily strong admission records who are expected to remain eligible for a commission, but only in the Restricted Line or Staff Corps Officer communities in the Navy, may be authorized an offer of appointment only upon my approval, including height and color deficiency waivers.

11. We will make offers of appointment which ensure all legal and policy requirements are met as well as guidance provided in SECNAVINST 1531.2D and OPNAVINST 5450.330B. To best meet the needs of the Naval Service, the Admissions Board is encouraged to identify outstanding candidates from the list of candidates applying for admission who possess the leadership potential and motivation to successfully complete the course of study at the Naval Academy and become combat leaders in the Naval Service. These candidates may be considered for an early action in the form of Letter of Assurance (LOA) in order for the Naval Academy to stay competitive in attracting the most highly-qualified candidates.

12. The Admissions Board may recommend a year of preparatory school for candidates who, as outlined in paragraph 5, possess unusual or exceptional talents and would, with further moral, academic and/or physical preparation, have a high probability of successfully completing the four-year curriculum at the Naval Academy. Since the Naval Academy Preparatory School (NAPS) is the primary avenue for enlisted members of the Navy and Marine Corps to gain admission to the Naval Academy, primary consideration for admission to NAPS will be made first from strongly motivated Fleet Sailors and Fleet Marine Forces candidates, and then to other candidates recommended by the Admissions Board. Of the pool of candidates recommended for a year of preparation, those not offered an appointment to NAPS, may be offered a year of preparation at a civilian school. Candidates enrolled in either NAPS or a civilian school will

compete for admission to the Naval Academy the following year through a formal Board review of each candidate's performance.